

No. 828 of 1889-90.

From

THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SIND CIRCLE,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Conservator's Office,

Hyderabad, 10th September 1889.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith the Forest Administration Report of the Sind Circle for the year 1888-89 with its subsidiary statements.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. G. McRAE, Colonel,
Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.

(Through the Commissioner in Sind.)

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE SIND FOREST
DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1888-89.

INTRODUCTION.

An area of 49,471 acres was added to the Sind Circle during the year under report.

2. The regular demarcation of forests in Sind may be said to have been completed, and no expenditure was incurred during the year under the head of Forest Demarcation and Settlement.

3. The general protection of the forests and the rate of reproduction in areas cleared in the working of previous years was found to be highly satisfactory.

4. The number of fires compared with the year 1887-88 is the same, but owing to conditions being more favourable to the spread of fires, the area burnt is double that of the previous year.

5. The railway authorities did not indent for a fresh supply of wood during the year under report till very late in the year, as they had a large stock of wood on hand from the quantity taken over during the year 1887-88.

6. An application was received for a monopoly of the right to purchase babul bark for export to Europe for ten years, and an offer also was made from a local contractor to purchase a large quantity of bark during the year. The grant of a monopoly not being considered desirable by the Commissioner in Sind, the offer of the local contractor was accepted.

7. A monopoly for three years of right of exporting wood to Bombay and Katch Mandvi was sanctioned by the Commissioner in Sind with a view to stimulating trade in wood between Sind and the Presidency proper.

8. The financial results are not so satisfactory as they might have been owing to the falling of in the consumption of wood fuel by the railway.

CHAPTER I.

AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

9. The following table gives the area of the Sind Forests as it stood on 31st March 1888, and also the areas added thereto and deducted therefrom :—

| Name of Division. | Area as it stood on 31st March 1888. | | | | Area added during the year or gained by action of the river. | | | | Area excluded during the year or lost by action of the river. | | | | Area as it stood on 31st March 1889. | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|--|--------|-------------|--------|---|--------|-------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | Reserved. | | Protected. | | Reserved. | | Protected. | | Reserved. | | Protected. | | Reserved. | | Protected. | |
| | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. | Sqr. Miles. | Acres. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sukkur ... | 425 | 439 | 1 | 128 | 34 | 596 | ... | ... | 3 | 430 | ... | ... | 456 | 605 | 1 | 128 |
| Naushahro ... | 186 | 469 | ... | ... | 40 | 578 | ... | ... | 2 | 230 | ... | ... | 225 | 177 | ... | ... |
| Hyderabad ... | 172 | 73 | ... | ... | 3 | 380 | ... | ... | 6 | 221 | ... | ... | 169 | 232 | ... | ... |
| Jerruck ... | 108 | 440 | ... | ... | 13 | 495 | ... | ... | ... | 140 | ... | ... | 122 | 164 | ... | ... |
| Total... | 893 | 150 | 1 | 128 | 93 | 129 | ... | ... | 12 | 381 | ... | ... | 973 | 538 | 1 | 128 |

The losses and gain of area, due to the changes in the course of the river, have been very extensive, but the former have involved newly formed lands, almost exclusively, and the loss of mature timber-bearing land has been very small. The chief loss has been in grazing grounds, the Hyderabad Division being the chief sufferer. The following figures show the loss and gain in each Division :—

| Division. | Area lost. | | Area gained. | |
|-----------------|------------|-------|--------------|--------|
| Sukkur..... | 2,350 | Acres | 6,958 | Acres. |
| Naushahro | 1,510 | " | 850 | " |
| Hyderabad | 4,061 | " | 2,300 | " |
| Jerruck | 140 | " | 70 | " |